

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

RYAN W. PAYNE,

Defendant.

Case No.: 2:16-cr-46-GMN-PAL

**ORDER**

Pending before the Court is the Report and Recommendation (ECF No. 1231) entered by Magistrate Judge Peggy A. Leen on January 4, 2017, denying Defendant Ryan W. Payne's ("Defendant's") Motion to Dismiss Counts Ten, Eleven, and Twelve (ECF No. 712). Defendant timely filed his Objection (ECF No. 1345), to which the Government timely filed a Response (ECF No. 1480).<sup>1</sup>

**I. BACKGROUND**

On March 2, 2016, a federal grand jury sitting in the District of Nevada returned a Superseding Indictment charging Defendant and eighteen other co-defendants with sixteen counts related to a confrontation on April 12, 2014, with Bureau of Land Management ("BLM") Officers in Bunkerville, Nevada. (*See* Superseding Indictment, ECF No. 27). At

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<sup>1</sup> On January 18, 2017, Defendant David H. Bundy ("D. Bundy") filed a Motion for Joinder (ECF No. 1347) to Defendant's Objection (ECF No. 1345). Additionally, on January 19, 2017, Defendant Ricky R. Lovelien ("Lovelien"), on January 26, 2017, Defendant Melvin D. Bundy ("M. Bundy"), and on February 1, 2017, Defendant Ammon E. Bundy ("A. Bundy") each filed Motions for Joinder (ECF Nos. 1362, 1411, 1468) to Defendant's Objection (ECF No. 1345). Pursuant to District of Nevada Local Rule IB 3-2(a), any objections to a magistrate judge's report and recommendation must be filed within 14 days of service. D. Bundy's Motion was filed within the 14-day deadline to be considered as an objection to Judge Leen's Report and Recommendation. However, Lovelien, M. Bundy, and A. Bundy's Motions were not filed within the 14-day deadline. Accordingly, D. Bundy's Motion for Joinder (ECF No. 1347) is granted, and Lovelien, M. Bundy, and A. Bundy's Motions for Joinder (ECF Nos. 1362, 1411, 1468) are denied as untimely.

1 issue here are Counts Ten, Eleven, and Twelve, all three of which charge Defendant and his co-  
 2 defendants with Obstruction of the Due Administration of Justice, a violation of Title 18,  
 3 United States Code, Section 1503. Section 1503 states in pertinent part:

4       Whoever corruptly, or by threats or force, or by any threatening letter or communication,  
 5 endeavors to influence, intimidate, or impede any grand or petit juror, or officer in or of  
 6 any court of the United States, or officer who may be serving at any examination or  
 7 other proceeding before any United States magistrate judge or other committing  
 8 magistrate, in the discharge of his duty, or injures any such grand or petit juror in his  
 9 person or property on account of any verdict or indictment assented to by him, or on  
 10 account of his being or having been such juror, or injures any such officer, magistrate  
 11 judge, or other committing magistrate in his person or property on account of the  
 performance of his official duties, or *corruptly or by threats or force, or by any  
 threatening letter or communication, influences, obstructs, or impedes, or endeavors to  
 influence, obstruct, or impede, the due administration of justice*, shall be punished as  
 provided in subsection (b).

12 18 U.S.C. § 1503(a) (emphasis added). The italicized section of the statute is considered the  
 13 “Omnibus Clause,” which “serves as a catchall.” *United States v. Aguilar*, 515 U.S. 593, 598  
 14 (1995). A charge of § 1503’s Omnibus Clause requires the Government to prove “[first,] the  
 15 defendant influenced, obstructed, or impeded, or tried to influence, obstruct, or impede the due  
 16 administration of justice; and [s]econd, the defendant acted corruptly, or by threats or force, or  
 17 by any threatening communication, with the intent to obstruct justice.” Instruction 8.131, Ninth  
 18 Cir. Model Jury Instructions (10th ed.) (last modified Dec. 2016). Additionally, the Ninth  
 19 Circuit has construed the “due administration of justice” to require proof of a “pending judicial  
 20 proceeding.” *See United States v. Weber*, 320 F.3d 1047, 1050 (9th Cir. 2003).

21       In his Motion to Dismiss, Defendant seeks to dismiss these counts because “the alleged  
 22 obstructive conduct in this case lacks the requisite nexus in time, causation, or logic with . . . [a]  
 23 judicial proceeding [as] required by [§ 1503].” (Mot. to Dismiss 5:7–9, ECF No. 712).  
 24 Additionally, Defendant asserts that “[t]he omnibus clause of 18 U.S.C. §1503 is  
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[un]constitutionally overbroad.” (*See id.* 7:24–9:15). In her Report and Recommendation, Judge Leen rejected these arguments and recommended denial of the Motion. (R. & R. 7:15–12:5, 12:23–13:2, ECF No. 1231).

## II. LEGAL STANDARD

A party may file specific written objections to the findings and recommendations of a United States Magistrate Judge made pursuant to Local Rule IB 1-4. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B); D. Nev. R. IB 3-2. Upon the filing of such objections, the Court must make a *de novo* determination of those portions of the Report to which objections are made. *Id.* The Court may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations of the Magistrate Judge. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); D. Nev. IB 3-2(b).

## III. DISCUSSION

Defendant asserts several objections to Judge Leen’s Report and Recommendation denying his Motion to Dismiss. (Obj., ECF No. 1345). Defendant first argues that Judge Leen erred by “applying a novel construction of § 1503 that neither the statute nor any prior judicial decision has fairly noticed to be within its scope.” (*Id.* 8:8–10).<sup>2</sup> Specifically, Defendant disagrees with Judge Leen’s reliance on *United States v. Sussman*, 709 F.3d 155 (3d Cir. 2013) and *United States v. Frank*, 354 F.3d 910 (8th Cir. 2004) to support that § 1503 encompasses violations of permanent injunctions. (*Id.* 9:20–11:21). Defendant then asserts that Judge Leen’s “novel construction of § 1503 [to include permanent injunctive orders as pending judicial proceedings] violates ejusdem generis and the rule of lenity.” (*Id.* 11:22–12:26). Lastly, Defendant reasserts his argument from his original Motion to Dismiss that “§ 1503 is [un]constitutionally overbroad.” (*Id.* 13:1–14:10). As such, these objections do not present new

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<sup>2</sup> Defendant additionally objects that the “permanent injunction in ‘*Bundy I*’ and all orders in ‘*Bundy II*’ go beyond the four corners of the indictment.” (Obj. 6:22–8:7). Defendant cites paragraph 3 of the Superseding Indictment for this proposition. (*Id.* 7:6–12). However, paragraphs 35, 36, and 38 of the Superseding Indictment also address the Court’s Orders, including the ones objected to by Defendant. Thus, Defendant’s objection is factually incorrect, and Judge Leen properly considered these Orders as pertinent to her analysis.

1 or rebuttal legal arguments, but rather request that this Court reject Judge Leen's  
2 determinations.

3 Having reviewed the record in this case *de novo*, the Court agrees with the analysis and  
4 findings of Judge Leen in her Report and Recommendation (ECF No. 1231) denying the  
5 Motion to Dismiss and incorporates them by reference in this order.

6 As Judge Leen noted, the Ninth Circuit has not addressed a § 1503 prosecution in which  
7 a defendant's conduct was alleged to violate a permanent injunction. (*See* R. & R. 9:13–14).  
8 Indeed, few courts have considered “when a proceeding ends for purposes of § 1503.” *United*  
9 *States v. Novak*, 217 F.3d 566, 572 (8th Cir. 2000) (citing *United States v. Fulbright*, 105 F.3d  
10 443, 450 (9th Cir. 1997) (noting that only “a few cases address post-trial conduct”), *cert.*  
11 *denied*, 520 U.S. 1236 (1997); *United States v. Johnson*, 605 F.2d 729, 730 (4th Cir.  
12 1979) (“While many cases have determined when a proceeding begins for purposes of [§ 1503],  
13 neither counsel nor research has produced any authority as to when one terminates.”), *cert.*  
14 *denied*, 444 U.S. 1020 (1980)). However, the Court agrees with Judge Leen that case law  
15 regarding permanent injunctions is instructive. “[A]n injunction often requires continuing  
16 supervision by the issuing court and always a continuing willingness to apply its powers and  
17 processes on behalf of the party who obtained that equitable relief.” *Sys. Fed’n No. 91, Ry.*  
18 *Emp. Dep’t, AFL-CIO v. Wright*, 364 U.S. 642, 647 (1961). The court may, in its “sound  
19 judicial discretion,” modify the terms of an injunction upon a change in legal or factual  
20 circumstances. *Id.* at 647. When a court has issued a permanent injunction, jurisdiction over  
21 the injunction is not a question of ancillary jurisdiction, but rather stems from the court's inherit  
22 authority to enforce its own orders. *See Reebok Int’l Ltd. v. McLaughlin*, 49 F.3d 1387, 1390  
23 (9th Cir. 1995) (“District courts do, and must, have the authority to punish contemptuous  
24 violations of their orders.”).

1 Here, in 2013, the Court granted the Government's Motion to Enforce Injunction related  
2 to Cliven Bundy's noncompliance with the prior court-ordered permanent injunction in 1998.  
3 (Order, *United States v. Bundy*, Case No. 2:98-cv-00531-LRH-VCF (D. Nev. Oct. 9, 2013),  
4 ECF No. 56). The facts of the confrontation alleged in the Superseding Indictment occurred  
5 pursuant to this court-ordered enforcement. (*See* Superseding Indictment). Accordingly,  
6 because the Court retains jurisdiction over permanent injunctions for enforcement, such  
7 enforcement is sufficient to support § 1503's requirement for a "pending judicial proceeding."

8 Judge Leen also found support for this interpretation under two other circuits' cases,  
9 *Sussman* and *Frank*. Defendant insists that *Sussman* and *Frank* were not final orders because  
10 time remained to file an appeal or a writ for certiorari. (*See* Obj. 10:18–11:10). However, these  
11 courts' findings of "pending judicial proceeding" did not turn on the fact that the time for  
12 appeal had not yet run, but rather that the interference was with the *execution* of a final court  
13 order. First, in *Sussman*, the Third Circuit rejected the defendant's argument that "the  
14 processes authorized by law for the collection of a judgment by a winning party are not  
15 'judicial proceedings' within the meaning of the case law under 18 U.S.C. § 1503." 709 F.3d  
16 155, 170 (3d Cir. 2013). Similarly, in *Frank*, the Eighth Circuit upheld a § 1503 conviction  
17 "for moving, concealing, and refusing to advise law enforcement agents of the location of a  
18 Chrysler LeBaron, for the purpose of obstructing justice and with the knowledge that *a court*  
19 *order had been issued* to seize the vehicle." 354 F.3d 910, 918 (8th Cir. 2004) (emphasis  
20 added). Both of these cases demonstrate that interference with the execution of the court's  
21 order can support a finding of "pending judicial proceeding" under § 1503.

22 Defendant also argues that § 1503 cannot include court orders regarding injunctions  
23 because 18 U.S.C. § 1509 specifically criminalizes the obstruction of court orders.<sup>3</sup> The Court

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24 <sup>3</sup> Section 1509 states: "Whoever, by threats or force, willfully prevents, obstructs, impedes, or interferes with, or  
25 willfully attempts to prevent, obstruct, impede, or interfere with, the due exercise of rights or the performance of  
duties under any order, judgment, or decree of a court of the United States, shall be fined under this title or

disagrees that § 1509 precludes the use of § 1503 here as a matter of law. As the Supreme Court has explained: “It is not unusual for a particular act to violate more than one criminal statute, and in such situations the Government may proceed under any statute that applies.” *Aguilar*, 515 U.S. at 616 (internal citations omitted).

Finally, the Court agrees with Judge Leen that Defendant’s overbreadth argument is foreclosed by *United States v. Thomas*, 612 F.3d 1107, 1129 (9th Cir. 2010). In *Thomas*, the defendant argued that “the government failed to plead and prove materiality as an element of [§ 1503].” *Id.* at 1128. The Ninth Circuit held: “Although not expressly included in the text of § 1503, materiality is a requisite element of a conviction under that statute.” *Id.* at 1129. While the court did not discuss pleading further, neither did it reverse or dismiss the count for failure to plead materiality. *Id.* at 1128–29. Accordingly, the Court finds that these counts need not be dismissed for failure to plead materiality here, even though the Government must prove the materiality of any alleged threatening communications during trial.

Accordingly, Defendant’s Objection (ECF No. 1345) is overruled. The Court accepts and adopts Judge Leen’s Report and Recommendation (ECF No. 1231) to the extent that it is not inconsistent with this opinion and denies Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 712).

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that the Report and Recommendation (ECF No. 1231) is **ACCEPTED and ADOPTED in full.**

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 712) is **DENIED.**

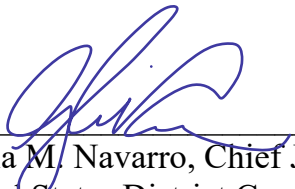
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imprisoned not more than one year, or both. No injunctive or other civil relief against the conduct made criminal by this section shall be denied on the ground that such conduct is a crime.” 18 U.S.C. § 1509.

1       **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that D. Bundy's Motion for Joinder (ECF No. 1347) is  
2 **GRANTED.**

3       **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Lovelien, M. Bundy, and A. Bundy's Motions for  
4 Joinder (ECF Nos. 1362, 1411, 1468) are **DENIED.**

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6       **DATED** this 7 day of February, 2017.

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Gloria M. Navarro, Chief Judge  
United States District Court